



MARCH, 1900.

THE
Official
Organ

OF THE

Vol. 2.] **Library Assistants' Association.** [No. 6.

L.A.A. MEETINGS, LONDON, MANCHESTER .. 73

**THE RANGE AND INFLUENCE OF PUBLIC
LIBRARIES—I 76**

**THE JUNIOR ASSISTANT ON LIBRARY
LITERATURE—II 77**

*See page 73 for special notice as to Leyton meeting,
and pages 74-5 for North Western Branch.*

ENTERED AT STATIONER'S HALL.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION, INCLUDING POSTAGE TO ANY ADDRESS, EITHER AT HOME OR ABROAD, 3s.

SOME COTGREAVE LIBRARY AIDS.

A FEW TESTIMONIALS.

THE INDICATOR.

"Library Construction, Architecture, Fittings, and Furniture." By F. J. BURGOYNE. 1897.

"The Cotgreave Indicator is that in use in the majority of the British Free Libraries."

"The Free Library: Its History and Present Condition." By J. J. OGLE. 1897.

"The Recording Indicator is almost certainly the invention of Mr. A. Cotgreave (Public Libraries, West Ham, London, E.), and is that most largely used."*

"THE SCOTSMAN."

"All the London Free Public Libraries (except one or two which do not use indicators), have adopted the Cotgreave System, which has been found to work well."†

N.B.—See also "Greater London," by E. Walford, M.A., F.S.A. (page 369); "Methods of Social Reform," by Prof. W. Stanley Jevons, M.A., F.R.S., L.L.D.; "Public Libraries," by T. Greenwood, F.R.G.S., &c., &c.

* As a matter of fact it will be found in about nine-tenths of the Libraries using indicators. Over 300 Institutions are now using it.

† Sixty-two Public Libraries in London and the Metropolitan area are using it.

MAGAZINE RACKS.

"FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY, WANDSWORTH.

The Cotgreave Magazine Rack has been in use in the news-room here since the opening of the Library. I can unhesitatingly speak of its value, for it greatly tends to keep the tables tidy. Being so compact it takes up little room, and a reader can see at a glance the periodical he wishes to read."

C. T. DAVIS, Secretary and Librarian."

* The Cotgreave Racks are in use at some 50 Libraries and Literary Institutions, from which similar testimonials have been received.

THE CONTENTS-SUBJECT INDEX,

TO GENERAL AND PERIODICAL LITERATURE.

Price to Subscribers, 7s. 6d.

(500 copies have already been subscribed for.—See List).

"DAILY NEWS."

"A 'Contents-Subject Index to General and Periodical Literature' would, if properly done, be a great time-saving machine. Such a work is being undertaken by Mr. A. Cotgreave. The first part, which is now before us, is distinctly promising. It will be helpful to many students and readers."

"DUBLIN REVIEW."

"The Editor of the 'DUBLIN REVIEW' (Canon Moyes), desires me to thank you for the specimen of the 'Contents-Subject Index,' and to say that he has formed a high opinion of it, in fact he has already found it useful."

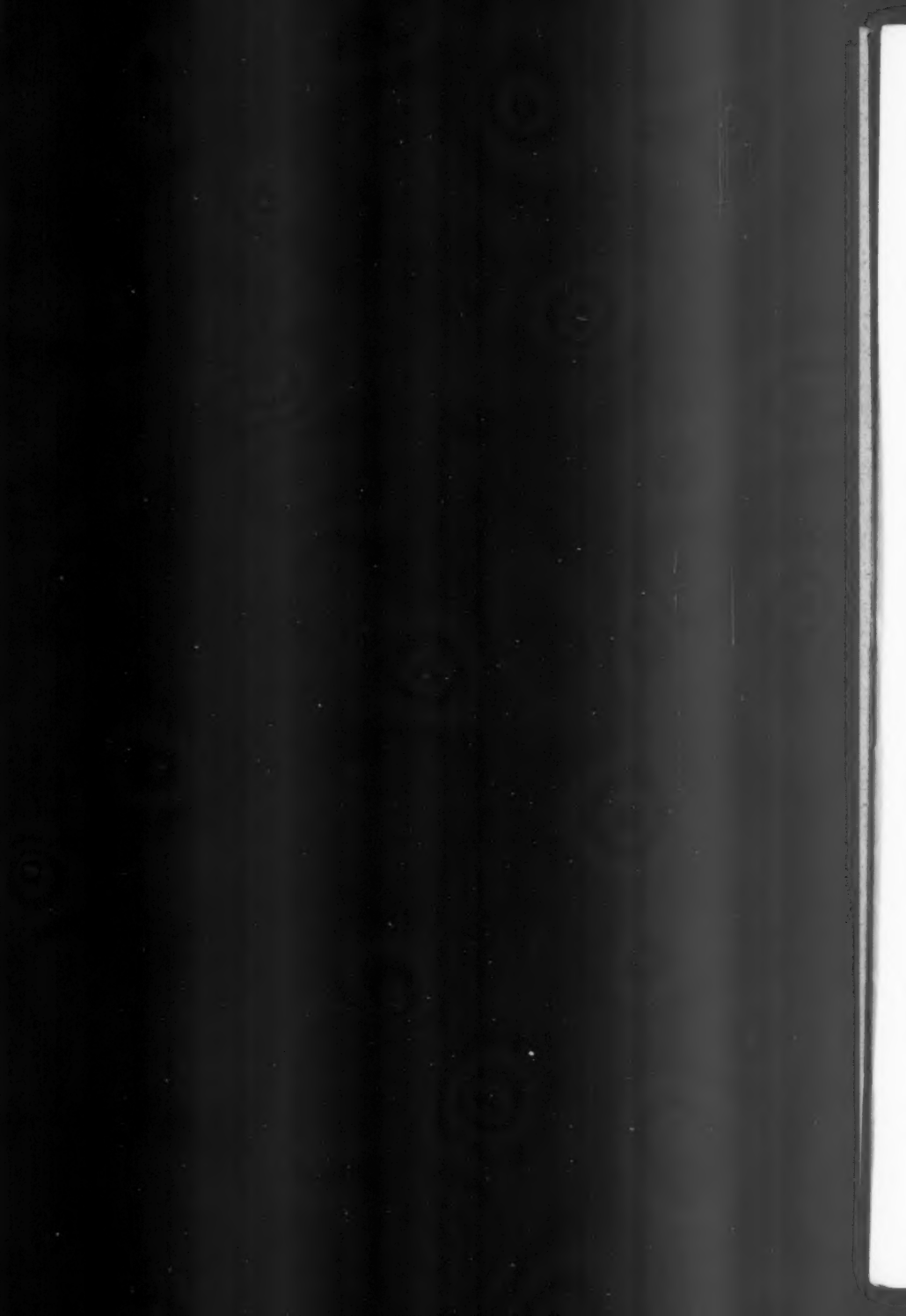
T. W. HUNTER, Librarian, Archbishop's House, Westminster.

Similar expressions of opinion have been received from a large number of leading journals, and from many well-known English and American Librarians.

N.B.—The Contents-Subject Index will be supplied to all Library Assistants at a reduced price, if applied for before publication.

Full particulars of the above and also of other Library Aids sent upon application.





THE LIBRARY ASSISTANTS' ASSOCIATION.

FOUNDED 1895. FIFTH SESSION. YEAR 1899-1900.

Members are requested to carefully read the announcements appearing on this page, as no further intimation of meetings and other arrangements will be sent out.

MARCH MEETING.

The sixth meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 21, at 8 p.m., at Leyton Public Library, when Mr. Z. Moon, the Librarian, will read a paper on "School Children and Public Libraries." Members who intend being present are requested to send a postcard to Mr. Moon. Those who desire to visit the Technical Institute should be there at 7.30. Trains from Fenchurch Street, G.E.R.

L.A.A. 1900 PRIZE ESSAYS.

Competitors in the L.A.A. 1900 Prize Essay Scheme are reminded that, in accordance with the directions given in the December number of this journal, all essays must be sent in by March 4th next.

THE SOCIAL GATHERING.

A hearty welcome was given us by Mr. Plant at the Pitfield Street Library on Wednesday, 7th February, where, through his kindly offices, the Library Committee of the Shoreditch Vestry had placed the spacious store rooms at our disposal for a Social Gathering. Ably seconded by Mr. Brown, Mr. Green, Mr. Brace, and every other member of the Shoreditch staff, Mr. Plant had made the most complete arrangements for the comfort of his visitors, who mustered in larger numbers than ever before, and were happy in being present at the most successful of our social meetings.

The large room was brightly decorated, and the beautifully even wood block floor prepared for dancing, which interspersed the numbers of a full programme. Mrs. Stephens, Mr. Milverton, and other friends, presided at the piano. The dancing made a pleasant and animated picture, and non-dancers took advantage of the games thoughtfully provided by Mr. Brown in a quiet room, whilst a sufficiently powerful galvanic battery, lent by Mr. Brace, caused much amusement.

Miss North, Mr. Young, Mr. Denton and Mr. Brown, were among the members who contributed songs, and amongst friends Mr. Keast, Mr. Stead, and Miss Morgan obtained well-deserved encores. Conversation and refreshments occupied the intervals between the various items. The recital, by Mr. A. M. Moslin and his little sister, of the Dungeon Scene from "King John" was a distinct success, which we trust will bring forward others of our junior members to assist at these pleasurable gatherings.

At a late hour the Chairman, in a few words, seconded by Mr. Dyer, expressed the deep obligation of the members to Mr. Plant and his staff for their great kindness. Mr. Plant expressed his pleasure at seeing so large a gathering, and the meeting terminated with "Auld Lang Syne."

FEBRUARY MEETING.

The fifth meeting was held at Cripplegate Institute, on February 21st, when a paper by Mr. C. R. Wright, on "The Library Assistant: his Work and Recreation," was read, a good number of members being present.

Mr. Ogle, who occupied the chair, rose to announce the resignation by Mr. B. L. Dyer of the joint office of Hon. Secretary of the L.A.A. and Hon. Editor of their official journal. In moving that the hearty thanks of the Association be tendered to Mr. Dyer, the Chairman made some observations upon the valuable services rendered by him, and the sense of loss which would be felt by every member of the Association. Mr. Rees, Vice-Chairman of the Association, in well-chosen and sympathetic words, seconded the motion, and the vote of thanks was carried by acclamation.

In reply, Mr. Dyer said it was not without regret that he had decided to sever official connection with the L.A.A. and its journal, but he thought it a matter for congratulation that the increasing work should have rendered it necessary to divide the offices; and he looked forward to their numbers, power and influence being yet further extended at the hands of his successors. His sympathies would ever be with the L.A.A., and anything which he could do to further its interests he would always be ready to do.

Mr. Armitage Denton, of the Chelsea Public Library, has been elected as Hon. Secretary, *pro tem.*, and Mr. Henry Ogle, of the Hampstead Public Libraries, as Hon. Editor, *pro tem.*, these being the only nominations.

In the unavoidable absence of Mr. Wright, who, until the last moment, had hoped to come down from Barrow-in-Furness to deliver his address, Mr. W. G. Chambers kindly undertook to read it.

Although disclaiming to have been written from a practical standpoint, and truly so as regards the technicalities of library work, Mr. Wright's paper dealt with the subject from such ground as the use of the junior assistant's duties as the basis of his future professional attainments, and the influence exerted by seniors upon juniors; the hours of library assistants and the range of their duties; hobbies, physical and mental, as a means to a healthy all-round life; and suggestions in favour of generous relations between seniors and juniors in work and study, and the employment of spare time.

The wide field opened up to discussion was entered by most of the members present. Cycling, walking, cricket, football, swimming and gymnastics were found to have followers in physical hobbies, and the more sedentary department claimed photography, print collecting, scrap-books for portraits of literary celebrities, book-plates, and book illustrations, music, reading, and the study of various branches of literature or science, as also possessing their devotees. Practical methods of encouragement in professional pursuits were instanced; the hours and pay compared with those of other employments—not always to the advantage of the latter; the difficulty of retaining junior beginners in libraries ventilated; and the disadvantages of apprenticeship—what to do when the term is served.

A long and interesting discussion was concluded by a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Wright for his suggestive paper, coupled with regret that he could not be personally present. A unanimous vote of thanks to the Governors of the Institute for the use of a room, and the usual announcements closed the meeting.

N.W. BRANCH: FEBRUARY MEETING.

The usual monthly meeting was held at the private residence of Mr. W. R. Credland, Deputy-Chief Librarian of Manchester, on Wednesday, February 14th. There was a good attendance of members, who were entertained to tea by Mrs. Credland, and afterwards adjourned to the drawing-room.

Mr. J. H. Swann presided at the meeting, and the discussion on chapters 10, 11, and 12, of Quinn's Manual of Cataloguing proved to be the best of the series, the members taking a deep and intelligent interest in the subject. The lists of books submitted for cataloguing were returned by most of those present, and it will be understood that, in future, the lists should be treated as for a Dictionary Catalogue.

A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. and Mrs. Credland for their kind hospitality, and Mr. Credland responded, hoping this would not be the last occasion on which he could show his sympathy for the work of the Association, and wishing them continued prosperity. Songs and recitations occupied the remainder of a most enjoyable evening.

P. D. G.

N.W. BRANCH: MARCH MEETING.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 14th March, at 7:30 p.m., in the Heginbottom Free Library, Ashton-under-Lyne, by the kind invitation of Mr. D. H. Wade (Chief Librarian). Train from Manchester (Victoria Station) at 7 p.m. Members are requested to meet on No. 2 platform ten minutes earlier. Those unable to travel by this train are requested to follow by the 7.28 p.m. Discussion on Quinn, chapter 12 to end of book. Members are requested to catalogue the following books, or as many as they are able to do:—

A Roll of the Graduates of the University of Glasgow from 31 Dec., 1727, to 31 Dec., 1897, with short biographical notes compiled by W. Innes Addison. Glasgow, 1898. 4to.

History of the Russian fleet during the reign of Peter the Great, by a contemporary Englishman (1724.) Edited by Vice-Admiral Cyprian A. G. Bridge. London, 1899. 8vo. Navy Records Society, XV.

Greek folk poetry: annotated trans. from the whole cycle of Romaic folk verse and folk prose. By Lucy M. J. Garnett. Edited, with essays on the science of folk-lore, Greek folk-speech, and the survival of paganism, by J. S. Stuart-Glennie. Guildford. 1896. 8vo.

English madrigals in the time of Shakespeare. Edited, with an introduction, by F. A. Cox. London, 1899. 12mo.

Subscriptions to the N.W. branch are now due, and should be remitted to the Hon. Treas., Mr. Wm Crompton, Y.M.C.A., Peter Street, Manchester.

THE RESIGNATION OF THE HON. SEC. AND EDITOR.

All who are interested in the L.A.A., will learn with regret that Mr. B. L. Dyer has felt compelled to sever his official connection with the Association. During the time that Mr. Dyer's abilities and enthusiasm have been enlisted in the service of the Association, his attitude has been one of unswerving devotion to its best interests, which are identified with the best interests of librarianship as a profession. The honorary secretary of a young and growing Association like this, is in no sense a sinecurist; and when he also edits the official journal it will readily be imagined that few men, with the scant leisure of library assistants, would have the courage to undertake, or the enthusiasm to carry out, the joint work of two such offices. Mr. Dyer will be missed from the official work of the Association, but, as a private member, we are still happy in being able to count upon his sympathy and support.

THE RANGE AND INFLUENCE OF PUBLIC LIBRARIES.—I.

The Public Library, as an institution, has of late received some attention from contributors and correspondents to the public press. The useful, the friendly pessimistic, the opposing, and the satirical observers (or non-observers), have been making suggestions and giving us their private thoughts.

A well known printing firm points out that public libraries may easily spread information on the great political topic of the day, by making a complete special list of the books on this subject available to their readers. Topical Lists are a common, if not universal, feature of our work, but we believe all library workers will welcome the suggestion as a sign of the settled influence which they wield in the public life. A development of the same idea is the practice of public libraries to distribute, to the students or the audience at lectures in the locality, lists of books that may be obtained at the library on the subject of the lecture.

A writer, evidently one of a class of people whom the original promoters of public libraries had chiefly in their minds, and, like many another, a great reader of standard works of the highest class, is sad at heart at the large number of people who might, but do not, read, and at others who read, but never graduate from novels. We cannot discuss the perennial fiction question again here, but would suggest that the very fact of books being available to anybody who chooses to borrow them is a refining influence from which few inhabitants of the district escape; that though, as a rule, even good novels deaden the power of thought if used exclusively, the opposite is the case with many heavy physical workers. Excessive indulgence in novels may easily forestall a worse expenditure of time, and will scarcely form an impassable barrier to one who wishes to learn more than fiction can teach him. Quite by chance, however, this contributor puts a finger on the weak spot.

Schools and colleges take their pupils in hand and educate them so far as they are capable of doing so, but the educational work of public libraries must be carried on in a passive manner. The librarians cannot say to their readers, "you must take this or that book, it is the literary pabulum most suited to your needs." They exercise their passive influence most wisely if they make and administer a collection of books of the best kind that circumstances permit. This, then, is the weak point, that the child is not taught to read at school. By reading, we mean, of course, a thorough understanding of the meaning and sense of any passage read, however simple it may be. Until the more beneficent system of elementary training, which is now gaining ground, has ousted the Procrustean bed of payment by results, the Public Library must bide the maturity of its existence. At present the youth of this country who read are,—those who have a "gift" for it; those who must read certain books for the sake of success in examinations or callings; and those who, with a kind of inferior "gift," read for amusement's sake. As they grow up many people come into contact with indirect educational pressure, such as interest in public affairs, desire to shine at a debating society, &c., proving to them the value of books. The foundation of the growth of public library work is the training of every child to use books intelligently, constantly, and faithfully, as a necessary part of its education.

IS LIBRARIANSHIP A PROFESSION?

In America no one can now ask whether librarianship is a profession. The calling has been officially recognised as a profession by those who are responsible for the issue of the documents on which the returns of this year's U.S.A. Census will be made up, and it is whispered in Wisconsin editorial circles that no less a person than the President of the L.A. itself suggested the innovation. We have to congratulate America now that she has placed herself on the same level as the old country, for in 1897, at the International Conference, Mr. Melvil Dewey said "The English librarian is now the professional librarian." It will be interesting to learn if the classing of librarianship as a profession in America will prevent its chief posts from being made the spoil of party politics.

THE JUNIOR ASSISTANT ON LIBRARY LITERATURE.—II.

Having been asked to contribute a few more notes on the accumulation of books and pamphlets on the editorial table, I think it best to begin with a large amount of matter in the shape of Topical Lists on South African affairs. While "the heart and brain of the nation are occupied with this great time of personal and national anxiety and distress," the libraries have lost no time in providing books and articles relative to it.

Whitechapel has given away to each of the users of the library a list of not far short of 100 books and articles descriptive of South Africa or dealing with its history, while no less than fifty novels and tales are added.

Leyton, in its valuable "Quarterly," has also a splendid list of books dealing with the subject, and also a very fully catalogued list of books relative to the history of Essex, which collection bids fair to be a very notable one.

A question suggests itself to me here, and that is—"How far is a librarian justified in manufacturing entries in his catalogue of special collections?"

In a local collection such as the Essex one at Leyton, such entries as the following are doubtless necessary, and certainly serve a useful purpose; though I do not profess myself enamoured of the "First word" shibboleth which arranges articles thus:—

EPPING FOREST.

BUXTON (E. N.) Epping Forest, 1890.....	h1068
FISHER (W. R.) The Forest of Essex; history, laws, 1887.....	h1007 and rl
GRAHAM (P.A.) Epping Forest. See Longman's Magazine, 1898	RL
OPENING of Epping Forest by the Queen; illustrated article in "Illustrated London News," May 6th and 13th, 1883.....	RL
SHAW-LEFEVRE (Rt. Hon. G.) The Rescue of Epping Forest. See "Contemporary Review," vol. 34, 1878-9.....	RL
SHORT account of the Epping Forest Museum (Pamphlet) 1895	RL
STABLES (G) Epping Forest. See "Log of a gentleman Gipsy"	h965

Certainly the entries under "Opening" and "Short" have a curious appearance, and the latter would perhaps have been best

under "*Museum*," for in course of time there will accumulate more matter that will deal with this subject, and it were surely better to gather it all under the one head than to scatter it. In other parts of this same Essex list are entries far apart that might well be gathered. Thus under Leyton twenty entries at least separate "Child in the Library," and "New Free Public Library for Leyton." After all, however, this is only a matter of arrangement, and such entries must be arranged as the cataloguer thinks most suited to his particular public.

But the craze for making catalogue entries of parts of books is possibly carried too far when, in a topical list on South Africa, Lecky's "Map of Life" is entered under the heading of "The Jameson Raid." At best, the three or four pages of the book only deal with the Raid incidentally and generally. If every item in this book were so catalogued, and if every book were so dealt with, how much larger than the library would the catalogue be! Another curious entry that I have noted in a topical list of books on South Africa is Campbell's "Log-letters from the *Challenger*." Of course it is possible to justify such an entry, but how much real value has it?

The Stoke Newington juveniles are to be congratulated on the wonderful pennyworth that has been provided for them in the shape of a List of Books for Boys and Girls. Here all the treasures of the library are duly set forth, and as all children over ten years of age may use the library, they cannot fail to be helped by it. There are a few useful notes, and I do not observe manufactured entries that often unduly inflate such lists.

To be "young enough to know better than one's elders" is one of the privileges of youth, and writing hastily on the subject of America's system of training pupils for library work, I made at least two mistakes that the editorial eye did not detect. In the first place there is no Summer School at the Pratt Institute, but an organised system of training, and the remark that I quoted applied to second year students only. In a future issue of this journal perhaps I may be permitted to say more on this matter, as I am indebted to Miss Plummer for a long letter and a report on the subject of the Pratt Training School, of which we know too little in England.

While on the subject of America, I regret to note that the pioneer "*ENGLISHWOMAN'S YEAR BOOK*" repeats almost word for word its last year's article on "Women in librarianship," and gives the commencing salary as £50, instead of taking the far more correct figure of £25, as given by Miss James in the columns of this journal. Such a mistake mars the usefulness of what is really a wonderful compilation, because if one finds a work of reference wrong in that part of its subject which one knows best of all, one is inclined to doubt the accuracy of its other statements. "*Who's Who*" from the same publishers, continues to be a most useful work of reference, and the list of pseudonyms alone is enough to commend its purchase to every librarian, while as a directory to literary, and—shall we dare to say—bohemian society, it has no equal. Unlike one of the contributors of a contemporary journal, I have not looked first to see if the Editor of this useful book had remembered my own claims, or those of my colleagues to posthumous fame by inserting an account of my contributions to literature (?), but I am content to be with this distinguished gentleman among the mute inglorious, who are not known to fame in these pages.

NEMO.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[The Editor will be glad to receive letters on all topics of interest, but the Editorial Committee cannot be held responsible for their contents. Anonymous letters must be accompanied with name and address of the writer, but this will in no case be disclosed.]

Bootle Free Public Library and Museum.
To the Editor of the "Library Assistant."
THE "OPEN BACK DOOR."

Dear Sir,

We have recently had another illustration of the working of what is known as the "open door" in the appointment of Mr. G. M. Fraser to the Librarianship of the Aberdeen Public Library, a gentleman, learned no doubt, but we are told with "no practical library experience." Mr. Fraser has our good wishes in his appointment, but the system by which he has been appointed deserves, and has, our strong condemnation, involving as it does the passing over of the claims of men of the experience and learning of Mr. John Minto, M.A., and of the experience and ability of Mr. Robert Adams, of the Mitchell Library, to say nothing of other competitors, perhaps equally well equipped. If the prizes of the profession are to be passed on to successful journalists, while the men who have devoted their lives to underpaid library work and library learning, are to be relegated to a position of subordination to inexperienced individuals who enter through the "open back door" and wave out the legitimate occupiers of their room, what are we coming to? "Narrow trades union ideas" say some librarians. Is this Aberdeen policy the common sense they would have Englishmen display in order not "to run counter to the public interest?"

Will those librarians who hold "open door" views answer these questions?

In taking an assistant to train in library work, do you assume that he is to earn an honourable living in librarianship after he has learned his business?

Are you not under a greater obligation to advocate his claims to an appointment involving knowledge of library work than the claim of an untrained man? Would you assist any person who has given librarianship no underpaid service to a remunerative chief position rather than one who has given much underpaid service?

Is it better for the public and for public libraries that their directors should have character, courtesy, and learning without experience of management and method, or character, courtesy, and learning with intimate practical knowledge of method and management?—Yours very truly, J. J. OGLE.

THE L.A. EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

It will be of interest to our Members to learn that there are 42 students attending the L.A. Lectures this season, of whom 29 attend Subject Cataloguing (Mr. Quinn), 26 English Language and Literature (Mr. Doubleday), 8 Public Library Office Work (Mr. Roberts), and 7 French Literature (Miss Heutsch); 39 are from Public Libraries, 2 from private libraries, and one is unattached. We had hoped to see a very much larger number take advantage of these valuable and uncommon privileges; the attendance is, however, lower than last year's, which was 44. Those who do attend are the gainers.

NOTES AND NEWS.

HORNSEY.—The Middlesex County Council have granted £300 for the purchase of technical books for the Central Library. Children between the ages of 9 and 14 are allowed to borrow books from the Juvenile Section of the Library.

PORT ELIZABETH, SOUTH AFRICA.—We are glad to hear that, notwithstanding the war, the authorities here find time to look after their Library. That enterprising firm the Library Bureau, Ltd., have just received a large order for furniture, including steel stacking, which is required for the new buildings now in course of erection.

STOKE NEWINGTON.—Children between 10 and 14 years of age are now allowed the use of the Lending Library under the following restrictions, viz.: they must obtain their books before 6 o'clock p.m., and they are not allowed works of fiction. This innovation is being carried out with the co-operation of the local school teachers—public and private—who have brought the matter under the notice of their scholars, and pointed out to them the advantages to be derived from becoming members. Already several hundred children have been enrolled, and a list of juvenile books has been published for their use.

WEST KILBRIDE, N.B.—A public hall, library, and reading and recreation rooms was opened on February 16th. The building has cost over £2,000.

APPOINTMENTS.

BALCOMBE, Mr. Claud O., Assistant, Cheltenham, to be Senior Assistant, Chelsea.

BENSON, Mr. H., of Edmonton, to be Junior Assistant, Tottenham.

CONNOR, Mr. H. Hamilton, Assistant, Enfield, to be Librarian.

COOPER, Mr., Assistant, of Leyton, to be Assistant, Cheltenham.

COWLEY, Mr. A. E., to be Sub-Librarian of the Bodleian, in succession to Dr. Adolph Neubauer, who has been granted a retiring pension of £250 *per annum*.

FRASER, Mr. W. G., bibliophile and journalist, to be Librarian of Aberdeen.

NEW MEMBERS.

The following are elected members :—

SENIOR :—Miss A. Credland and Messrs. E. Luke and F. Nicholson (*Manchester Reference*). E. L. Bird (*John Rylands Library*), and R. E. Swift (*Ealing*).

JUNIOR :—Messrs. O. J. Sutton and O. M. Pyne (*The John Rylands*), A. J. Harper (*St. Martin's*), G. C. Anderson and G. W. Aulman (*West Ham*), and P. J. Watkinson (*Stoke Newington*).

OBITUARY.

Miss M. Glover, of Chorlton-on-Medlock Public Library, and member of the North Western Branch, L.A.A., has just passed away.

DONATION.

The Librarian wishes to acknowledge with thanks the gift of the "Library World," two sets complete, from the Library Supply Co., who promise to continue them. *Per* Mr. W. W. Fortune.

NOTICES.

All communications relating to the Journal should be addressed to Mr. Henry Ogle, Hon. Editor, *pro. tem.*, 14, Agincourt Road, N.W.

Annual subscriptions to the Journal are now due, and with subscriptions to the L.A.A., should be sent to Mr. W. G. Chambers, Hon. Treasurer, Public Library, Stoke Newington, N.

All other communications should be addressed to Mr. Armitage Denton, Sec., L.A.A., *pro. tem.*, 17, Tyrawley Road, Fulham, S.W.





THE CARD CATALOGUE.



EVERY possessor of a library, no matter of how few volumes, recognises the desirability of keeping a proper record of it. This can only be done with perfect satisfaction by means of the card system, and the following are its chief advantages:—

- 1.—Strict alphabetical sequence can always be maintained.
- 2.—Books can be catalogued under author, title and subject, and arranged in the same index, cross references being made where necessary.
- 3.—When a volume is lent to a friend, a note to that effect can be entered on the card in a permanent or temporary way, and date of borrowing and return affixed.
- 4.—Any notes respecting date of accession; where purchased or how otherwise obtained; the owner's or his friend's opinions and comments on the book; remarks as to re-binding, etc., etc., can all be recorded upon the card relating to the book in question, as the owner desires.

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Further particulars and prices may be obtained of—

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An Inexpensive Reading Cover in our Sanitary Washable Cloth.

One of the many Testimonials received by us:—

"CHELSEA PUBLIC LIBRARIES,"

December 3rd, 1896.

Messrs. Banting & Son have been the bookbinders to these Libraries from the commencement, in 1888, and have given every satisfaction.

Their work is lasting, reasonable in price, and carefully carried out.

The fact that they are binders under contract to a large number of Public Libraries is sufficient proof that in this particular line they are difficult to beat.

J. HENRY QUINN,

Chief Librarian and Clerk to the Commissioners.

PARTICULARS, PRICES, AND SAMPLES ON APPLICATION.

J. BANTING & SON,

Bookbinders & Booksellers,

KING'S ROAD, CHELSEA, LONDON.

Printed by E. MITCHENER, at 26, Eversholt Street, N.W., and Published for the Library Assistants' Association, March 1st, 1900.

